

Georges Carpentier's Story of Career

Being the History of French Heavyweight Star From the Time He Started Boxing Until the Present Day

BY JACK VEIOCK.

CHAPTER VIII.

The French idol's next stumbling block was none other than the doughty Billy Papke, one-time champion of the middleweights. The Keweenaw terror was not the Bill Papke of Los Angeles and Coima, where he staged his great battles with Stanley Ketchel, but he was a tough customer, and if there was a trick of the trade he did not know that trick was not worth remembering. Papke came to Paris to meet Marcel Moreau, Carpentier's rival. Moreau floored Papke in the first round of their scheduled twenty-round bout and had all the better of him during the first ten sessions. Then Papke came from behind and forced Moreau to quit in fourteen rounds.

Among the spectators was Carpentier. When the bout was over Georges climbed into the ring and challenged the man from Keweenaw. When on challenge was translated to Papke he offered to take Georges on then and there. Georges was so puffed up that he considered an insulting offer that he started to peel off his coat and would have flown into Papke had not those in the ring intervened. This incident, by the way, created a blood feud between Georges and Billy, and they showed open contempt for each other when they met a short time later.

Carpentier had been taking on weight continuously and when he met Papke he was a full-fledged middleweight—a heavy middleweight. In fact, for he was forced to dry out to make the roundings that had been agreed upon. By drying out Carpentier saved his \$1000 weight forfeit, but weakened himself considerably and was not at his best when he entered the ring.

Papke, incidentally, failed to make the weight. He was out to win, and win he did, but not until the seventeenth round, when he succeeded in opening a gash over Carpentier's left eye which caused such a flow of blood that Georges was blinded. Prior to the sudden ending of the bout as a result of Descamps' refusal to permit Carpentier to continue the going had been interesting, with Carpentier scoring frequent points but taking considerable punishment whenever Papke got in close to him.

Wanted to Continue.

Carpentier wanted to continue. He almost came to blows with Descamps, so eager was he to go out for the eighteenth round, but, as was always the case, Descamps won the argument in the end and Papke jotted the name of the great Frenchman into his record as a victim.

The bout with Papke occurred in October, 1912. The following January Carpentier was matched with his greatest rival, Marcel Moreau, and his record shows that he disposed of Moreau in eight rounds. Bandsman Rice, Cyclone Smith and George Gunther were met and knocked out by the whirlwind from Lens during the early months of 1913, and in the spring he began priming him for the greatest effort of his career—his first battle with Bombardier Wells.

At the age of nineteen Georges Carpentier had wrested a comfortable fortune from the ring. He set his parents up in business in Lens, establishing them in a smart little cafe. He invested a generous share of his earnings in coal mining property around his home town and was somewhat proud to be known as a coal operator, for only seven years previous he had been a poor pitboy.

But if Carpentier was the ideal son of a wealthy parent he was more than ever the idol of the French sport-loving public, and had his moral suit been less highly developed than his physical self we might not be hearing of him today, for frivolity beckoned to him on every hand. Young though he was and new to fame, Georges merely glanced into the whirlpool of pleasure and refused to be tempted. He may have sampled the cup of nectar held forth to him by the Goddess of Pleasure, but he did so in strict moderation, and a youth who can pass up the night life of Paris deserves much praise.

Manager Watches Him.

Meanwhile, Descamps, his guardian angel, who had been like a father to him from the first, kept an ever watchful eye on the young boxer. Georges was still growing. He was now a good light-heavyweight, and as he had proven his superiority over the best middleweights and light-heavyweights in Europe talk began to spring up of a possible meeting between Georges and Bombardier Wells, heavyweight champion of England. Carpentier's close friends, outside of Descamps, held up their hands in protest. The thing was unthinkable. Why, Georges was five inches shorter and weighed some 27 pounds less than Wells. But Georges himself smiled and remarked that if Descamps thought well of such a match he would be willing to go through with it whenever the time came, for he had earned with Wells at Leigh-on-Sea and something told him that he had at least an even chance with the big fellow.

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Tod Waring has been named manager of the high school of the Western association and is hustling for players. He already has secured five recruits from Jimmy Hamilton, manager of the Joplin Western league team. They are Murphy, a first baseman; Kadote, a shortstop; Grider, an outfielder, and two brothers named Wuldrick, positions not stated. Waring must build up an entire new team and is in the market for a lot of youngsters.

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